

## Editor's Preface

The theme of the 1996 AILA Congress, the Eleventh World Congress of Applied Linguistics, held in Jyväskylä, Finland, 4-9 August 1996, was 'Applied Linguistics across Disciplines'. Following this theme, the Language Australia Language Testing Research Centre organised a symposium to discuss the nature and problems of specific purpose language testing - testing across a range of disciplines and professions.

We are pleased to publish this special edition of Melbourne Papers in Language Testing which presents six of the eight papers from that symposium on 'Bridging the gap between language and the professions: what do language testers need to know?'

The papers in this collection are introduced by the symposium discussant, Dr Dan Douglas, of Iowa State University, U.S.A., who is well-known for his work on 'field-specific' testing.

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